



RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

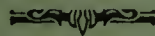
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December,

1937.



RUNCORN:

J. S. Edwards, Printer & Stationer, 68 High Street.

1938.



Urban District Authority

of Runcorn

ANNUAL REPORT

1937

BY

JEROME BERNARD MURPHY,

B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

URBAN DISTRICT OF RUNCORN.
1937.

Chairman of the Council :

T. CLARE, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

P. SMITH, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee :

J. W. JOHNSON, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of Health Committee :

W. GITTINS, Esq., J.P., C.C.

Clerk to the Council :

JOHN HOWARD.

Surveyor and Water Engineer :

A. B. CUNNINGHAM, M. INST., M. & Cy. E.

Officials of Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health and

Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital :

JEROME BERNARD MURPHY, B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :

*Senior : ALLEN DALE, M.S.I.A. Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Foods.

*Additional: J. W. E. JORDAN, M.S.I.A. (Cert. L'pool) Meat and Foods.

* Also appointed Shops Inspector.

Advisory Officer of the Sanitary Department :

J. T. SHAW.

Matron of Isolation Hospital :

Miss M. E. EDWARDS, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Certs. in Fever Nursing and Housekeeping.

URBAN DISTRICT OF RUNCORN.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937, together with the reports of the Sanitary Administration of the Urban District, and Vital Statistics.

An enquiry held by the Ministry of Health in June of 1937, at the Town Hall confirmed the Council's Clearance Orders in respect of certain areas in Fryer Street and Back Loch Street, which Orders also included Clearance Areas in Highland Road, Gilbert Street and Canal Street.

The question of re-housing the families from the back-to-back type of house has been engaging the Council's attention very seriously throughout the year, and the building of the Ivy Street Estate was commenced towards the latter part of the year 1937.

It is anticipated that all the families to be dispossessed will be re-housed before the end of the Spring of 1938, on this very desirable Site.

The Council's policy of providing alternate accommodation for the families of overcrowded tenements, namely those tenements which were overcrowded previously to the "appointed day" January 1st 1937, as well as that of overcrowding from natural causes, has been consistently pursued throughout the year with satisfactory results. While, as yet, this is only a partial solution of a very pressing need of the Community from a Public Health point of view, it is anticipated that the question of overcrowding will, in the near future, be reduced to a minimum.

During the latter part of the year 1937 Runcorn experienced a very alarming incidence of Diphtheria and Scarlatina, amounting at times almost to an epidemic.

These cases were satisfactorily dealt with by the aid of our own Infectious Diseases Hospital, and in part by the aid of the Rural District Isolation Hospital at Dutton.

Enquiries exhaustively instituted by our own Sanitary Inspectors and bacteriological examinations of the more common articles of food failed to trace these sporadic outbreaks to a local origin.

Similar series of outbreaks of Diphtheria and Scarlatina throughout the country at large at or about the same times has forced me to the conclusion that the origins of the wide-spread infections were largely due to seasonal causes.

Our Isolation Hospital accommodation, although strictly in accordance with the needs of our population as set out by the Ministry of Health, in my opinion falls far short of what would be required in cases of severe epidemics.

We are sorry to have lost the services of Miss Eaton, late Matron of the Isolation Hospital, who retired on account of ill-health. A new Matron, Miss Edwards, was appointed in her stead, and she, with her staff, is giving entire satisfaction.

I wish to return my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their invaluable help and co-operation during my short term of office.

I also wish to thank the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Howard and his staff for helping me over a very difficult period in Public Health Administration.

I have also received very valuable help from the Surveyor and his staff, and to them I wish to tender my thanks.

In the Sanitary Department Mr. J. T. Shaw the part-time Advisory Officer has put at my disposal his very valuable knowledge acquired from his long experience of Public Health work over a large number of years.

The first and second Sanitary Inspectors, Messrs. Dale and Jordan, appointed last year have very satisfactorily carried out their duties during the year.

The re-housing of many of the overcrowded cases has been conscientiously and tactfully brought about by the agency of our enumerator Mr. Sproston, and thereby was a considerable help to me.

To these four members of my staff in the Public Health Department I have been deeply indebted during my term of office and I have no doubt that by their assiduous, very able, and conscientious services, you will continue to possess a Sanitary Staff unequalled by any Urban District of an equal size in the country.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant

JEROME BERNARD MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—2,904,
(including about 100 acres of water surface)

(a)	Estimated Population (mid 1937)	...	23,220
(b)	Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1937) according to the Rate Books	...	6,335
(c)	Rateable Value of the District	...	£126,484
(d)	Sum represented by one penny rate	...	£485
(e)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population mid 1937)	... ..	7.99
(f)	Average number of persons per inhabited house. (Estimated population mid 1937)	... ..	3.66

Runcorn is distinctly urban in character, situated on the south bank of the estuary of the River Mersey. The ground rises from the river, the highest point being at Runcorn Hill, 256 feet above sea level.

The town is built on red sandstone with pockets of boulder clay.

Chemical industries and Tanneries absorb the bulk of the working population of the town. Many young people are engaged in Wire Works and Jam Works situated in the Rural District, while persons of all ages are employed on the river and canals.

The conditions of labour from the health point of view are good.

The unemployment rate has improved in the year under consideration as the following figures show.

Insured Population

Year	Men	Women	Juveniles	Total
1936	6069	424	942	7435
1937	6002	471	1008	7481

Number of Persons unemployed					
		Men	Women	Juv.	Total
Wholly unemployed	31st Dec. 1936	398	64	167	629
"	" 1937	271	47	132	450
Temp. stopped	" 1936	78	12	13	103
"	" 1937	25	15	1	41
Normally in casual employment	" 1936	98	—	—	98
"	" 1937	43	—	10	53
Total	31st Dec. 1936	574	76	180	830
Total	31st Dec. 1937	339	62	143	544

Vital Statistics

		Total	M	F
Live Births	{ Legitimate ...	359	158	201
	{ Illegitimate ...	3	3	—
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...15.5				
Stillbirths	...	18	8	10
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births...47.3				
Deaths	...	306	165	141
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...13.17				
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of Registrar-General's Short List) :—				
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	...	1		2.63
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	...	1		2.63
Total	...	2		5.26
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—				
All infants per 1,000 live births	...		24 deaths	
Death Rate 66.3				
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	66.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...			32
" Measles (all ages)	...			nil
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	...			3
" Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...			nil
Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment.				
The causes of the highest Mortality were :—				
Heart Disease	...		86	
Cancer	...		32	
Pneumonia	...		25	

There were 145 deaths of persons over 65 years of age

		M	F	Total
From 65-69	Number of deaths	18	12	30
„ 70-79	„ „	50	29	79
„ 80-89	„ „	11	21	32
„ 90 upwards	„ „	1	1	2

Causes of Sickness or Invalidity.

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year beyond the sporadic outbreaks of Diphtheria and Scarlatina which one could not attribute to any conditions of occupation or environment, and there is no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES.

Year	Mid-Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate *	Infantile Mortality
1937	23,220	15.5	13.17	14.7	66.3
1936	22,903	15.3	11.3	12.6	45.0
	21,720				
1935	18,200	13.7	10.98		36.0
1934	18,130	13.9	9.5		41.5
1933	18,050	18.0	11.3		55.3
1932	18,090	15.03	11.9		88.2
1931	18,310	16.2	10.7		60.4
1930	18,570	18.2	9.4		44.3
1929	18,570	19.8	13.4		78.8
1928	18,700	18.8	10.7		73.6

* Adjusted Death Rate arrived at by application of Areal Comparability Factor, viz :—1.12.

SECTION B—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities

Runcorn is fortunate in that the Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., is established in the Town. The Institute examines pathological specimens and supplies serum for cases of Diphtheria Scarlet Fever and Anthrax.

(b) Ambulance facilities

One ambulance for infectious cases. For general cases arrangements are made with a local firm of garage proprietors.

(c) Home Nursing

Runcorn District Nursing Association (voluntary) 5 Nurses
Number of Midwives practising in the District—10

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres are under the direct control of the County Council,

Child Welfare. Each Tuesday and Wednesday 2-4 p.m.

Ante-Natal

Fortnightly on Thursdays 9-30 a.m. - 12-30 p.m.

School	...	...	...	Each morning
Dental	...	...	In connection with School Clinics	
Eye	..	...	In connection with School Clinics	
Tuberculosis	...	...	Each Thursday 11 a.m. - 12-30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	..	1st Friday in each month	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	
Public Vaccinator	...	...	...	Dr. Murphy

Specialists and Hospital accommodation are provided by the County Council for cases of Puerperal Fever.

(e) Hospitals.

The Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital with 32 beds, staffed by the local Medical Practitioners and Visiting Consulting Surgeons from Liverpool who attend on the following days :—

Mr. G. E. C. Simpson	...	Wednesdays (General)
Dr. Malpas	...	Tuesdays (Gynæcological)
Dr. Rankine	...	Fridays (Eyes)
Mr. Foster	...	Monthly on
		Tuesdays (Ear, Nose and Throat)

The Cheshire County Council Public Assistance Hospital is at Dutton, about 4 miles from the centre of Runcorn.

The Runcorn Isolation Hospital is under the control of the Urban District Council with the Medical Officer of Health as Medical Superintendent. There are 20 beds and 8 cots. Arrangements are made whereby infectious cases can be sent to Dutton Fever Hospital if the Runcorn Isolation Hospital is full.

Patients suffering from surgical complications such as Mastoiditis are sent for operation to Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool, by arrangement with Liverpool Corporation.

SECTION C—Sanitary Circumstances.

1. (I)—WATER

The water supply consists of a mixture in approximately equal proportions of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn well water.

The report on the analyst's bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water was as follows :—

Physical Characters.

“ A clear and colourless water, free from odour and deposit. It is a chemically pure and bacteriologically sound water of wholesome potable quality.”

There were no new sources of water supply used during 1957.

(II)—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land. Another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the westerly boundary of the District and is discharged similarly into the Mersey estuary.

There were no extensions of sewers during the year under review.

3. (I)—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of a few cottages the whole town is supplied with water carriage.

(II)—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole district. The collection from dwelling-houses is carried out weekly also the collection of trade refuse. Disposal is by tipping into old quarries on the stonehills

III — SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations 1935 or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926 :

Inquiries re Overcrowding Abatement	...	...	3.182
Inspections made for all other purposes	...	...	5.552
Nuisances dealt with	...	...	1.582
Notices served (Informal re 338 houses)	...	...	312
Prosecutions re exchange of toys for rags	...	...	1

NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Defective or choked drains	...	...	...	57
„ „ „ water closets	...	...	...	89
New drains provided	...	...	...	9
Waste water closets converted	...	...	...	2
Defective eaves-gutters and downspouts	...	...	...	77
„ roofs	...	...	...	100
„ yard surfaces	...	...	...	92
„ sinks and sink waste pipes	...	...	...	73
Dampness of rooms	...	...	...	84
Defective ceilings	...	...	...	61
„ internal walls	...	...	...	169
„ external house walls	...	...	...	53
„ yard walls	...	...	...	14
„ water closet walls	...	...	...	19
„ house floors and steps	...	...	...	96
„ water closet floors	...	...	...	35
„ doors and door frames	...	...	...	60
„ windows	...	...	...	126
„ stairs	...	...	...	12
„ woodwork of fixtures	...	...	...	23
Handrails provided	...	...	...	32
Defective fireplaces and firegrates	...	...	...	47
„ washing boilers	...	...	...	26
„ chimneys	...	...	...	14
Nuisance from smoke	...	...	...	10
Insufficient ashes accommodation	...	...	...	94
„ water supply	...	...	...	8
„ ventilation	...	...	...	12
„ lighting	...	...	...	4
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	22
Dirty and verminous conditions	...	...	...	48
Limewashing :- Bakehouses	...	...	...	10
„ Cowsheds	...	...	...	4

TOTAL 1582

Summary of Visits and Inspections

DESCRIPTION	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep	Oct.	Nov.	Dec	Totals
Bakehouses	4	6				4					9	5	28
do. (underground) ..		1									1		2
Canal Boats	24	27	31	45	8	78	24	66	61	21	48	40	473
Common Lodging Houses ..	20	41	20	40	1	21	1			1		1	5
Complaints	1	9	5	4	30	4	16	24	22	24	15	13	286
Cowsheds			3		7		6		2	1		3	42
Factories and Workshops ..									5	7	25	2	61
Food Shops	5	14	17	13	11	14	18	19	13	12	16	10	157
Houses Inspected	64	74	42	63	53	31	51	14	86	69	80	67	715
Infectious Disease Inquiries ..	50	32	32	50	30	24	55	35	76	74	83	67	582
Licensed Music Halls ...	10												10
Manure Receptacles ...	1	2		1		3		1	2			2	12
Markets (Public)	1		1	1			1	1	1		1	2	9
Middens and Earth Closets ..							4						4
Milk Samples					8		16						24
Milkshops and Dairies ..	1	45	43	57	19	10	19		3	1	4	2	204
Miscellaneous	40	23	20	32	44	45	57	22	18	35	22	19	377
Nuisance Abatement	66	127	92	77	113	176	133	81	101	105	70	154	1295
Offensive Trades			1								1		2
Owners-Agents Interviewed...	14	21	20	22	23	47	35	21	31	35	32	33	334
Piggeries				1					2			1	4
Public Conveniences ...	2	3	4	1	4	2		1	2	2	1	6	28
Rag Stores			2						2				4
Rats and Mice Destruction ...				1	1	1			4	2		1	10
Schools Conveniences ..	3	2					4	1	4	3	4	3	24
Shops	24	28	48	73	35	27	18	10	42	20	43	31	399
Slaughterhouses Public ..	3	2	6	6	9	10	14	14	13	31	20	21	149
do. Private	1	1	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	4		22
Smoke Abatement						4	2	3					9
Vans, Tents, &c.											11		11
Water Closets and Drains ..	20	49	28	24	23	15	14	20	19	7	36	12	267
Water Samples Domestic ..					1								1
do. Baths					2								2
Totals	354	508	419	495	424	518	489	368	510	451	526	490	5552

iv. SHOPS :-

There are 495 shops in the district of the Local Authority and during the year 599 inspections of the same have been made. Apart from a few minor contraventions, the shops were found to be in a satisfactory condition in relation to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation.

At the commencement of the year the Council became Administrative Authority for the "Shops (Closing Hours) Acts" and the employment of young persons.

Evening observations of shops have been regularly made, warnings have been given to a number of shop keepers, but in only one instance has it been necessary to take legal proceedings : In this case a fine of Seven Shillings and Sixpence was imposed.

v. SMOKE ABATEMENT :-

During the year 9 observations have been made for the purpose of smoke abatement, and where representations have been made to local industrial firms, a willingness to co-operate with the Local Authority in an attempt to minimise the smoke nuisance, has readily been shown.

It has not been found necessary to take any legal proceedings. No prosecutions have been instituted for the firing of house chimneys during the year.

Factory and Workshops Act 1901.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.					
PREMISES.	NO. ON REGISTER	INSPECTIONS.	NOTICES.		DEFECTS
			WRITTEN	VERBAL.	
Factories	50	50	3	6	9
Workshops	55	41	5	2	9
<hr/>					
DEFECTS.					
TYPE.		FOUND.		REMEDIED.	
Want of Cleanliness		14		14	
Other Nuisances		4		4	
<hr/>					
Defects notified by H. M. Inspector 3					
No. of Outworkers Lists :- 1 Contractor. 3 Outworkers.					
There is one underground bakehouse in use.					

Tabular Statement of Industries.

Baking	18	Gas Works	1
Blacksmith	1	Laboratories	2
Boat Building	6	Laundry	5
Boot Repairing	7	Millinery	2
Brick Making	1	Plumbers	2
Builders	10	Printers	3
Cabinet Makers	1	Sailmaking	2
Chemicals	4	Salt Works	1
Coach Builder	1	Stone Mason	2
Electricity	2	Tanning	3
Engineering	7	Tailoring	1
Extract Process	1	Tinsmith	1
Firewood Maker	1		

All the above are on the Register kept for the purpose.

A list of outworkers has been forwarded to the Authority concerned.

vi. SWIMMING BATHS.

The Urban District Council maintain a Swimming Bath which is open on weekdays during the summer months and is in charge of the Baths Superintendent.

The bath is supplied with water partly from a spring and partly Town's mains which is passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine.

Physical Characteristics :- "A clear and colourless water"

Analytical Report pronounces the same to be "Sterile and of satisfactory basicity"

A tendency to over-chlorinate the water has now been satisfactorily adjusted.

vii. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs.

	INFESTED	DISINFESTED
1. (a) Number of Council houses	2	2
(b) Number of other houses	23	23
2. The methods employed for freeing infested houses includes the application of strong vermicides and fumigants of high potency.		
3. For ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses fumigation with Hydrocyanic Acid is carried out, whilst the bedding is disinfected by steam.		

4. The fumigation with Hydrocyanic Acid is carried out by a contractor and the steam disinfection by the Local Authority.
5. As a means of preventing infestation or re-infestation after cleansing, advice is given by the Officials of the Local Authority to householders.

4—SCHOOLS.

During the year 24 inspections of public elementary schools have been made and apart from a few minor defects which were forthwith attended to, the sanitary conditions were found to be satisfactory and the water supply good and adequate.

In conjunction with the schools Medical Officer of Health of the County Council, every effort has been made to protect the health of the scholars, and all the schools in the area have been disinfected during the year as a precaution against the spread of infection.

SECTION D—Housing.

Number of inhabited Houses in Urban District	31st December,
1937 	6,335
Density of houses (number of houses per acre) ...	2.18
Number of new houses erected during 1937 ...	154
By Local Authority 	23
By other bodies or persons 	131
Number of houses owned by Local Authority ...	224

1—Inspection of dwellinghouses during 1937.

1 (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 	715
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 	2010
2 (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 	55
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 	155

3	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	55
4	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	338
II	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	301
III	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	19
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
	(a) By owners ...	nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil
	(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	10
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	5
	(a) By owners ...	5
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil
	(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	20
	(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	16

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit nil

4. Housing Act 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding,

- (a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 174
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 218
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 1,178
- (b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 130
- (c)—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 136
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 836
- (d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding nil
- (e)—Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the Local Authority and relieved during the year ... 1

Number of cases relieved in course of Slum Clearance operation 9

Number of overcrowded houses in each ward on 31st December 1937.

Ward	No. of Houses overcrowded	No. of Families Dwelling therein	No. of Persons Dwelling therein
Bridgewater	26	39	167
Central	39	47	266
Halton	42	46	284
Heath	9	12	60
Mersey	20	23	130
Newtown	26	36	191
Weston	12	15	80
Totals	174	218	1178

SECTION E — Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY :-

During the year 246 inspections have been made of dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, including the inspection of 12 farms situated in the district.

There are 104 Purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority and the following tabular statement describes the same :-

Retail Purveyors (without premises in the district)	..	4
Wholesale „ „ „ „ „	...	2
Retail & Wholesale „ „ „ „	...	3
Retail Dairymen (with premises in the district)	...	10
Wholesale „ „ „ „	...	4
Retail & Wholesale Dairymen	...	1
Retail & Wholesale Dairymen & Cowkeepers	...	12
Retail Purveyors of Bottled Milk only	...	68
TOTAL	...	104

The premises inspected were invariably found in a clean condition.

Twenty-four samples of milk have been taken during the year for analysis. Two of these samples showed evidence of Tubercle Bacillus and nine, evidence of dirt.

On investigations being made, it was discovered that during the period between the taking of the samples and the receipt of the final report thereon, two cows had been slaughtered from farms producing the two samples of milk infected with Tubercle Bacillus.

Strong representations were made regarding the presence of dirt in milk, the respective farms were inspected, and subsequent samples taken at the farms were satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Licences have been granted under the above Order as follows:-

To sell "Accredited Milk"	...	2
To bottle and sell "Accredited Milk"	...	1
„ „ „ „ Pasteurised Milk	...	1

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :-

4

During the year 149 visits were made to the Public Abattoir, 22 visits to the private slaughter-house, (there is only one in the district) and 157 visits to other premises where foods are prepared or sold.

Ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered have been made and the following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	130	458	29	620	70
Number Inspected ...	120	420	29	536	70
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	9	28	nil	13	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	6.9%	6.39%	nil	2.09%	nil
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	7	74	1	nil	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.51%	16.89%	3.57%	nil	8.47%

(C) Adulteration, etc.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION Act 1928.

For work done under this Act during 1937 I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Cheshire County Council.

Name of Sample	No. obtained	No. adulterated or not up to Standard
Baking Powder	...	1
Boracic Ointment	...	2
Brandy	...	2
Butter	...	2
Cheese	...	1
Cheese, Cheshire	...	1
Cocoa	...	2
Coffee	...	1
Cream	...	1
Cream, Tinned	...	1
Epsom Salts	...	1
Ginger, Ground	...	1
Jelly	...	2
Lard	...	2
Liquorice Powder	...	2
Milk	...	28
Rum	...	2
Suet, Shredded	...	1
Whisky	...	2
Zinc Ointment	...	5
	58	1

Particulars of Samples not up to Standard or adulterated—
Milk 13.5% deficient in fat—Purveyor Cautioned.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food—
This section is administered by the County Council.

(e) Nutrition—
No special steps have been taken in the district regarding the significance of adequate nutrition.

(f) Shell-fish (Molluscan)—
There are no Shell-fish beds in the area

SECTION F—Prevalence of and control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The prevailing varieties of notifiable infectious diseases during the year were mainly confined to Diphtheria and Scarlatina. Of the former we have at times experienced the two clinical types nasal and laryngeal present in the same person at the same time, but in the great majority of the cases treated, the clinical variety to be met with was the laryngeal type. Of the streptococcal infections, Scarlatina appears to have been the prevailing one.

We have had no case of puerperal fever notified during the year, and only one case of scarlet fever sorethroat occurring without a rash. In many cases of Scarlatina and suspicious sorethroats, and in all suspected Diphtherias, swabs have been taken and subjected to bacteriological examination, and prompt use made of anti-toxins. The number of cases of Pneumonia notified was 25, Dysentery 1 and Malaria nil.

The accommodation available in the Isolation Hospital has been used to the best advantage. 154 cases of Scarlatina had to be nursed at home in consequence of the concurrent outbreak of Diphtheria, and all precautions were taken by the Local Authority to minimise the spread of infection.

We have been particularly free from Measles and Whooping Cough during the year. In all cases where school intimations of suspected infectious diseases have been received at the Sanitary Department, immediate action has been taken.

No action has as yet been taken to introduce general immunisation against Diphtheria, but the matter is under consideration awaiting the ways and means of tackling the matter on a thoroughly sound basis. In Measles, Scarlatina and Whooping Cough the use of sera for prophylaxis or attenuation is fairly general amongst the practitioners in the area. There has been one case of Anthrax in the Area. Cases of Anthrax are treated immediately at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1937.

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1937.

Disease	Total Cases Notified *	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	259	105	1
Diphtheria	134	115	8
Erysipelas	11	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Dysentry	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Enteric Fever including Paratyphoid	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	25	—	25

* An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age-groups are given below:
1 year, 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 35-, 45-, 65 and over.

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	259	1	13	26	27	35	106	36	3	7	4	1	
Diphtheria	134	2	9	11	14	13	54	20	5	3	2	1	
Pneumonia (Prim)	25	1	3	1		3	2		2	4	3	5	1
Erysipelas	11								1		1	6	3
Ophthalmic Neonat'rum	1	1											
Dysentry	1							1					
Para-T'phoid	1									1			
Acute Poliomyelitis	1											1	
	433	5	25	38	41	51	162	57	11	15	10	14	4

Antitoxin is provided free to medical practitioners and can be obtained at any time from the local laboratories of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb. In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in Diphtheria and it is very gratifying to state that almost all cases had had antitoxin given by the private practioners before removal to hospital.

Swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria are examined at Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb's laboratory

Swabs examined during 1937:—1954. Positive - 235. Negative—1719.

Incidence of Infectious Diseases.

Cases removed to Hospital.

Name of Hospital	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Cross Infections (Dipb-S.F.)	Typhoid	Total
Runcorn ...	114	83	4	1	202
Dutton ...		18			18
Fazakerley ...	2	2			4
Warrington ...		1			1

Average length of stay in Runcorn Isolation Hospital—33 days

Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

Age			0-30		30-50		50-70		70-over		
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Breast	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	
Colon	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	
Genital Organs	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Gullet	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Lungs	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Lymph Glands	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Prostate	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Rectum	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Remainder of											
Intestinal Tract...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Stomach	—	—	1	2	2	—	4	2	
Male Deaths	—	—	2	—	7	—	8	—	} Total 32
Female Deaths	—	—	—	5	—	4	—	6	

Deaths from all Causes : Males—165
during the year 1937 Females—141 { Total—306

The 32 deaths from Cancer give a rate of 1.37 per 1,000
of population,

1937.

TOTAL DEATHS.

S.D. 30.

RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Males.

Females.

ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	165	141
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	—	—				
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
8 Cerebro-spinal fever...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	11	5
10 Other tuberculosis diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	17	15
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	5	8
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	44	42
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	15	10
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	2	0

						Males	Females
23	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2	1
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	1
26	Other diseases of liver, etc	...	...	...	...	—	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	3	2
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	6
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	1
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc	...	...	...	...	5	2
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	1	5
33	Sucide	...	...	...	...	1	—
34	Other violence	...	...	...	...	10	4
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	19	10
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)						—	—
	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year							
	Total	...	...	...	...	17	7
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	17	7
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS							
	Total	...	...	...	...	161	201
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	158	201
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	—
STILLBIRTHS							
	Total	...	...	...	...	8	10
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	8	10
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—
POPULATION						...	Estimated 23,220
Comparability Factor—1.12							

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality }
 Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain }
 Infectious Diseases in the year 1937. }

England and Wales,
 London, 125 Great Towns
 and 148 Smaller Towns

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	Runcorn Urban District	Eng and and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Population					
BIRTHS—					
Live	15.5	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3
Still ... ..	.77	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54
DEATHS					
All Causes	13.17	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever ...	.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough ...	.12	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06
Diphtheria ... ..	.34	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza ... ..	.60	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38
Violence ... ..	.64	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Small Pox	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	11.11	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09
Diphtheria	5.77	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93
Enteric Fever ...	.94	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas ... ..	.47	0.37	0.45	0.34	0.44
Pneumonia	1.07	1.56	1.58	1.20	1.18
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	66	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age)	0.00	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	2.76	0.97	Not available		
Others	2.76	2.26			
Total	5.52	3.23			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	2.60	0.94	Not available		
Others	2.60	2.17			
Total	5.20	3.11			
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal Fever ...	0.00	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15
Puerperal Pyrexia ...					14.34

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Provided for by the County Council.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary to compulsorily remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1957.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	5	6	—	1	—	—
5—14	1	—	8	2	1	—	—	—
15—24	2	6	1	—	—	2	—	—
25—34	3	5	1	—	3	2	—	—
35—44	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
45—54	3	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
55—64	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals...	14	11	15	9	11	5	—	—

15 of the 16 deaths were notified cases.

Specimens of Sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis are examined at the Cheshire County Council's Laboratory.

During the year 1957 the following Sputums were dealt with :-

Total No. of Sputums	Negative	Positive
119	105	14

Annual Report of the Canal Boat Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you a report of Canal Boats inspected during the year 1937.

Runcorn became an Authority for the Registration of Canal Boats in the year 1878 and since then 1,160 Canal Boats have been registered ; of that number 609 boats are still on the Register.

No Registration has been cancelled or renewed during the year.

The number of Canal Boats inspected during the year is 473 ; during the year 1936 the number inspected was 458.

Twenty-seven boats with forty-seven contraventions of the Acts and Regulations have been reported and the contraventions remedied,

It has not been found necessary to take any legal action.

The following is a Tabular list of the number and nature of the contraventions dealt with.

Nature of Contravention				No. of boats affected
Defective water vessels	...	..		1
Leaking decks	...	...		12
Leaking sides of cabins	...	...		4
Leaking floors of cabins	...	...		2
Defective bilge water pumps	...	...		2
Painting of cabins overdue	...	...		15
Defective stove pipes - inside cabins	...	...		2
Defective woodwork of bed berths	...	...		1
Defective woodwork of scuttles	...	...		1
Defective woodwork of cabin doors	...	...		1
Defective woodwork of food cupboards...	...	...		1
Dilapidated Certificates	...	...		2
Name or number of boats obliterated	...	...		3
Total				47

The four hundred and seventy-three boats inspected were registered to accommodate one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five adult persons, or one thousand two hundred and ninety-two adults and nine hundred and forty-six children.

There were found on board six hundred and twenty-six men, two hundred and sixty-two women, and two hundred and thirty-three children. Compared with 1936, there was an increase of thirty-two men, three women and nineteen children.

The number and ages of children found on board are given in the following table :-

Age (under 1)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
18	20	21	19	21	17	9	16	14	9	12	26	12	19	233

There has been no case of infectious disease reported on board a Canal boat during the year.

Yours obediently,

A. DALE,

Canal Boat Inspector.

